already existing Railway system. Under the circumstances what was required was an extension of the line from Quilon or Kottarakarai right through the heart of Central and North Travancore as far as Alwaye. The line could thus go up to the Mangalore line. It had been a subject of complaint that North Travancore had not sufficient means of communication. If the proposed line were sanctioned, that would remove the complaint on that score. If a serious economic contingency like the recent Muvattupuzha famine were to recur, the railway would be of great use. The travelling allowance to officers could perhaps be curtailed. The Member's estimate was Rs. 75,000 per mile, the whole length being 100 miles. Under the present rate of exchange the cost would be 75 lakhs, if the work were begun now. Even if a company were floated, capital would easily flow, provided Government stepped in with its guarantee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

143. Suggestions for the improvement of the Public Service.

Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, Quilon taluk) observed that the subject of his representation had already been discussed at several Sessions of the Assembly, which only showed how important it was. He then complained of the difficulty experienced by the Assembly Members in getting reliable statistics and said that the public should be furnished with copies of departmental reports too. Taking finances first, the policy of Government should be to ensure a steady and recurring source of income. Expenditure should be so regulated as to keep it well within income. Any surplus that might remain should not be allowed to accumulate, but should be invested on reproductive works of utility to the people. It should be the aim of the State to tap all sources of income. Following that principle, the rubber tree should be taxed. Income-tax should be imposed, as that alone would bring the non-agricultural classes, such as merchants, under a well-regulated system of taxation.

Of late the educational policy of Government had been unsteady. In effect the expenditure had been on the increase every year and schools had come into existence for every two square miles. Apart from the financial aspect of the ever-growing expenditure, there was the question of finding employment for the young men turned out of the various schools every year. It was a serious problem for Government to solve. Under the circumstances it was a matter of gratification that a vocational side had been introduced in some schools. But the progress made was not satisfactory. More substantial work should be done with a view to avert unemployment. The need of the hour was food and the educational curricula should be so adjusted as to make every young man earn his own bread and thus make the country self-sufficient in the matter of its food supply.

The policy of retrenchment in the P. W. D. was, no doubt, commendable. But the curtailment should be under establishment charges and not in works as had turned out now. The establishment charges amounted to as much as 25 per cent. of the departmental grant.

Taking the Department of Industries, the Member stated that it had not been productive of as much benefit as was expected, though it had been in existence for three years. The Director of Industries must possess a fair knowledge of pure and applied sciences and know enough Vernacular to enable him to move among the people and acquaint himself with the ways and habits of life of the people.

The forest policy had not been above criticism and it seemed to vary with the departmental head. The complaints of the people for the past 5 or 6 years were chiefly directed against the Conservator. After pointing out some of the defects in the methods of forest administration by the late Conservator, the Member submitted that the development of the forests should be on scientific lines.

The Police Department too should be reorganised. The partial abolition of Circle Inspectors had yielded very good results and it was time that the reform was extended to the other parts of the State. If, on the other hand, it was thought that the Circle Inspectors should be maintained, it should be distinctly laid down that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

each Circle Inspector should investigate a certain percentage of cases of theft of articles of the value of Rs. 500 and above, of dacoity, murder, robbery and other grave crimes. The Circle Inspectors should also be held responsible for the prosecution of a certain percentage of Police cases. The Prosecuting Inspectors being few in number, it had fallen on Sub-Inspectors to conduct cases with results not satisfactory or desirable. Again, the status and grade of the Inspectors posted in a station should depend on the number of cases registered and the importance of the place. All Police Orders should be compiled into one volume and made available for use, as such a book would render it helpful to a uniform procedure being followed in the department. If Sub-Inspectors were also allowed to draw their pay on their own salary bills like the Sub-Registrars, it would relieve the District Superintendents of a good deal of clerical work. The pay of the constables should be increased, as they were the persons who formed the real force and came in direct touch with the people. Their pay might be made at least Rs. 10 with a scale up to Rs. 15. The Police Commissioner should, as far as possible, be a Travancorean if one with the necessary qualifications could be found. But if it is decided that he should be a European, then he should be selected directly from England and given the necessary training and retained, so that it might be possible for him to study the conditions of the country and do useful work. The present practice of having one for a few years should be stopped, as that could not ensure a well-defined and continuous policy.

Appointments in the State service should be conferred only on natives and no foreigner should be imported, if a native could be found. Men trained for particular posts should, on no account, be allowed to abandon their post. Whenever additional appointments were created, the reasons should be explained in full for creating them. The District Judges should have the same pay as that of Dewan Peishkars. All Revenue Officers should be placed under a Revenue Commissioner. The Secretariat should be reformed, making provision for one Secretary for the Legislative branch and another for the Railway branch. The management of the Railway line in Travancore gave room for a lot of scandalous talk among the people and the general impression was that not even one third of the income actually realised was credited to the State. The Travancore Government should be in a position to check and audit the accounts of the Railway. That question should be looked into seriously. With the reorganisation of the Secretariat there should be more decentralisation and the Dewan should have more time to attend to the real work of administration. The pay of the Judges and Munsiffs should be improved. The lot of the clerks in the High Court deserved to be considered with greater sympathy. No extensions of service should be given except for weighty reasons. The Member concluded his representation with the following suggestions :—

(1) An Executive Council should be established.

(2) The Public Service should be overhauled with a view to reduce the number of public servants and increase the standard of efficiency.

(3) The S. M. P. Assembly should be so reformed as to give power to its representatives to discuss matters affecting the State as a whole.

(4) Huge industrial concerns like those of Messrs. Tata and Sons should be started to avert unemployment.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

144. Hardships experienced by the people on account of the want of co-operation between Government Officers and representatives of the people and certain suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. N. Parmeswaran Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) explained that, in spite of the establishment of the Assembly, the people were not having that voice in the discussion of public affairs which their brethren had elsewhere. He made the following proposals with the object of securing the end in view :—

(1) The Members of the Assembly elected for the taluks should be empowered to bring matters of public welfare to the notice of the officers concerned.

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